



# Council of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the British Caving Association

[www.csccl.org.uk](http://www.csccl.org.uk)

## Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting – Monday 7 July 2025

Finalised 10 July 2025

### Recording of the meeting

The meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minute taking.

### 1 Attendance

#### Voting Attendees

#### 12 Voting reps

Adam Fletcher	GSS	AF	
Alan Dempster	Avon Scouts	AD	
Alan Gray	Axbridge CG	AG	
Barry Wilkinson	WRCG	BW	
Dave Cooke	Cheddar CC	DC	Chair/Webmaster
Dave L King	MNRC	DK	
Frank Tully	WCC	FT	Secretary
Joshitha Shivkumar	UBSS	JS	
Judi Durber	EECC	JD	
Laura Benn	BEC	LB	
Matty Dredge	MCG	MD	Assistant Equipment
Peter Burgess	Wealden CMS	PB	CSCC Comms

#### Non Voting Attendees (Observers)

Graham Mullan	UBSS	GM	CCC Ltd rep
Wayne Starsmore	WCC/BEC	WS	C&A

An EGM requires a quorum of 8, so this EGM is quorate.

### 2 Apologies for Absence

None

### 3 Vote to elect a chair for the EGM

Dave Cooke was elected as chair of the meeting, vote was unanimous.

### 4 Chair's Opening Remarks

DC The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote upon the proposed, "Cheddar Caves Access Agreement".

DC I would like to thank Wayne Starsmore for all his work pulling this agreement together on behalf of CSCC and the wider caving community.

#### 4.1 Procedural issues

DC This EGM does not procedurally follow the CSCC Constitution. The Constitution requires 6 weeks notice to call an EGM. The CSCC Officers felt that getting the agreement signed was more urgent, potentially risking the loss of momentum with Longleat at this critical time.

To remain within the Constitution, a decision to proceed made at the EGM has to be ratified at our scheduled GM on the 18th August. The agreement can be cancelled by the GM if needs be.

The meeting considered this not to be a contentious issue, and agreed that we could proceed.



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DC The main objective of this meeting is to vote on the Cheddar Caves Agreement proposal and if this passes to appoint two signatories to sign it.

DC Accelerating this decision will also require us to review and accept these minutes before the next meeting. The draft minutes will be circulated by email, could attendees of this meeting please signal their acceptance by email. This vote will be recorded at the next meeting.

### 4.2 Discussion on the Cheddar Caves Access Agreement

WS Apologies at the length of these documents but the agreement has had to satisfy a number of interested parties. To simplify the document we separated them out for simplicity.

WS A number of people have noticed that there is one document missing, the conservation and training plan for Gough's Cave. This is drafted and unlikely to be contentious in any way, this will follow.

A full discussion took place.

## 5 Proposal to accept the Cheddar Caves Access Agreement

*It is proposed that the Cheddar Caves Access Agreement between Cheddar Gorge and Caves a registered division of Longleat Enterprises Ltd. and the Council of Southern Cave Clubs be accepted and that the Chair and the Conservation & Access Officer be authorised to sign the agreement.*

Proposed WS Conservation & Access Officer, Seconded DC Chair,

Vote to accept the proposal passed unanimously.

AG I would like to thank Wayne for all the work he has put in whilst negotiating this agreement. People should be aware of the number of meetings he has attended and the time it takes to draft this type of agreement. Everyone indicated that they concurred.

DC Thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.